

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

A new title is added, in response to the request made in the Office Action.

Claims 1 and 7 are present in this application. Claims 2-6 and 8-13 are canceled by way of the present amendment. Amended claims 1 and 7 are supported by, for example, page 57, line 24 – page 62, line 20 and Figures 18 and 19. No question of introduction of new matter is believed to be raised by the amended claims.

Under the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting, claims 1 and 7 are rejected over claims 4 and 9 of copending application Serial No. 10/682,876 ('876), claim 7 is rejected over claims 4 and 9 of '876 and U.S. 7,194,196 (Yamamoto et al.), and claims 1 and 7 are rejected over claims 1 and 6 of copending application Serial No. 10/742,903 ('903), and claim 7 is rejected over claims 1 and 6 of '903 and Yamamoto et al. Claims 1 and 7 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Yamamoto et al.

The remaining rejections of the claimed are mooted by the cancellation of the claims.

The Applicants are filing herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejections. Withdrawal of the double patenting rejections is respectfully requested.

The presently claimed invention is directed to an information playback apparatus and method. In the apparatus, a storage unit is configured to store expansion information acquired by a second acquisition unit in accordance with a type of the expansion information. Each of the segmented memory spaces of the storage unit stores and outputs a plurality of pieces of segmented expansion information which form a first type of expansion information, and the segmented memory spaces of the storage unit are integrated to store and output a second type of expansion information. As described in the non-limiting example given above, the apparatus according to the invention can advantageously store different types of

expansion information and allow for efficient downloading and playback of the expansion information, while reducing the resource demands on the storage unit.

Turning to the § 102 rejection, Yamamoto et al. describe a structure, shown in Figures 10 and 11, including VBV buffer 87, sub-picture buffer 89 and audio buffer 92. VBV buffer 87 stores video signal Sv, sub-picture buffer 89 stores sub-picture signal Ssp and audio buffer 92 stores audio signal Sad. Audio buffer 92 synchronizes the audio signal Sad with the video signal Sv or the sub-picture signal Ssp, as described in column 19, lines 19-28. Yamamoto et al., in contrast, does not disclose a storage unit as recited in the playback apparatus of claim 1 having segmented memory spaces storing and outputting a first type of expansion information and segmented memory spaces which are integrated to store and output a second type of expansion information. There is no such storage unit being segmented and integrated as recited in claim 1 disclosed in Yamamoto et al. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Yamamoto et al.

In the method of claim 7 segmented memory spaces of the storage unit store and output a plurality of pieces of segmented expansion information which form a first type of expansion information when the first type of expansion information is to be stored, and the segmented memory spaces of the storage unit are integrated to store and output a second type of expansion information when the second type of expansion information is to be stored. It is clear from the description of Yamamoto et al. above that there is no such method including such steps disclosed or suggested by Yamamoto et al. There is no storage unit which has segmented and integrated memory spaces to store and output first and second expansion information, respectively, as recited in claim 7. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 7 is also patentably distinguishable over Yamamoto et al.

Lastly, Miyata et al., which was cited to reject other now canceled claims, discloses a technique of storing data in memory 16 and 17 alternately and does not disclose a playback

apparatus having the storage unit of claim 1 or the method of claim 7. Claims 1 and 7 are patentable over Miyata et al.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and an favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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